

Fuel Markups as High as 70% in USVI Prompt DLCA Scrutiny and Public Outcry Across Virgin Islands

With regular gas retailing at \$3.99 despite a \$2.46 rack rate, DLCA confirms margins as high as 70% on STX, and even higher in STT & STJ, Commissioner Hodge urges fuel retailers to reflect falling global oil prices in local pump costs.

Economy / **Published On May 12, 2025 08:32 AM /**

Staff Consortium **May 12, 2025**

Image not found or type unknown



GMAX Gas Station in Golden Rock, St. Croix on May 8th, 2025. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM.

Amidst [renewed scrutiny of fuel prices](#), the V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs has reported “notably high gross margins between rack rates and retail prices”.

Regular gasoline on St. Croix has a rack rate of \$2.46 per gallon but is sold at the pump for \$3.99—a markup of 62%. According to DLCA, margins on diesel and gasoline reach 65% and

70%, respectively. The agency's press release, issued this morning, comes following a Consortium article that spotlighted the stark gap between rack prices and retail costs. That report was based on a statement from Senator Hubert Frederick, who urged DLCA to intervene. The article sparked [strong](#) public [reaction](#), with many in the community criticizing the agency for failing to enforce pricing regulations.

Margins on fuel in St. Thomas and St. John are even higher, the Monday morning press release from the department noted, with a gallon of diesel costing as much as \$5.89.

“The people of the Virgin Islands deserve transparency and fairness at the pump,” said DLCA Commissioner Nathalie Hodge. “I urge all fuel retailers to reassess their current prices, account for recent declines in costs, and make the necessary adjustments.”

Additionally, local rack rates have not dropped commensurately with declining crude oil prices on the global market. DLCA noted a 19% decrease in the price of Brent crude as of May 2025, but only a 2 to 5 percent decrease in rack prices for regular gasoline, premium gasoline, and diesel.

Nevertheless, “if savings are being realized at the rack, they must be passed on to the public,” Ms. Hodge insisted. The agency encourages consumers to report concerns in person, over the phone, or online.